CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A system for determining product availability, comprising:

a) at least one demand source for inputting demand information;

b) a demand configurator receiving demand information from each said at least one demand source and coordinating product requests responsive to said received demand information according to customer request rules and priorities;

c) a supply configurator receiving manufacturing and planning data from a planning source and manipulating said received manufacturing and planning data to create new supply data;

d) a material resource engine for providing material supply information responsive to said new supply data, said received demand information and according to product supply rules and priorities; and

e) a solver for optimizing product availability information responsive to the material supply information and product supply rules and priorities.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the supply configurator, deletes from said received demand

information all build options and all receipts to create said new supply data.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the demand configurator determines how supply is grouped for a plurality of customers in a plurality of forecast groups.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein supply is mapped against actual demand.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein supply for a particular customer group can be designated as supply for a plurality of demand types.

6. The system of claim 4, wherein said plurality of demand types includes backorders, firm orders, order move-ins, order move-outs and new requests.

7. A computer implemented method for determining product availability comprising the steps of:

a) retrieving demand information from one or more demand source;

b) coordinating product requests responsive to said received demand information according to customer request rules and priorities;

c) receiving manufacturing and planning data from a planning source and manipulating said received manufacturing and planning data to create new supply data responsive to said coordinated requests;

d) providing material supply information responsive to said new supply data, said received demand information and according to product supply rules and priorities; and

e) optimizing product availability information responsive to the material supply information and product supply rules and priorities.

8. The computer implemented method of claim 7 wherein in the step (c) receiving manufacturing and planning data, all build options and all receipts are deleted from said received demand information to create said new supply data.

9. The computer implemented method of claim 8, wherein in the step (b) a determination is made how supply is grouped for a plurality of customers in a plurality of forecast groups.

10. The computer implemented method of claim 9, wherein supply is mapped against actual demand.

11. The computer implemented method of claim 10, wherein supply for a particular customer group is designated as supply for a plurality of demand types.

12. The computer implemented method of claim 11, wherein said supply for a particular customer group is designated as either backorders, firm orders, order move-ins, order move-outs or new requests.

13. A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied in said medium for determining product availability, said computer program product having:

a) first computer program code for retrieving demand information from one or more demand source;

b) second computer program code for coordinating product requests responsive to said received demand information according to customer request rules and priorities;

c) third computer program code for receiving manufacturing and planning data from a planning source and manipulating said received manufacturing and planning data to create new supply data responsive to said coordinated requests;

d) fourth computer program code for providing material supply information responsive to said new supply data, said received demand information and according to product supply rules and priorities; and

e) fifth computer program code for optimizing product availability information responsive to the material supply information and product supply rules and priorities.

14. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein in the third computer program code (c) for receiving manufacturing and planning data, all build options and all receipts are deleted from said received demand information to create said new supply data.

15. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein in the second computer program code (b) a determination is made how supply is grouped for a plurality of customers in a plurality of forecast groups.

16. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein supply is mapped against actual demand in the second computer program code.

17. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein supply for a particular customer group is designated as supply for a plurality of demand types in the second computer program code.

18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein said supply for a particular customer group is designated as either backorders, firm orders,

order move-ins, order move-outs or new requests in the second computer program code.